Author's response to reviews

Title: Somatic health among heroin addicts before and during opioid maintenance treatment: a retrospective cohort study

Authors:

Ivar Skeie (ivskeie@online.no)
Mette Brekke (mette.brekke@medisin.uio.no)
Morten Lindbaek (morten.lindbak@medisin.uio.no)
Helge Waal (helge.waal@medisin.uio.no)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter

Dear Editor!

We have now revised our manuscript.

According to reviewer Trafton’s remarks we have done some changes in the manuscript.

The Minor Essential revisions:

The formatting on Table 2 is corrected. This table is copied into the manuscript file as a Microsoft Office Word-document-object. To further format this table, you will have to double-click.

The formatting of all tables is changed from landscape to portrait. The formatting of the tables should now be in the BMC style.

Table 5: The wording has been changed according to Trafton’s advice.

Sentence according to the first reference to [46]: The HIV prevalence of 1-2 % is among heroin users.

The 5 years mentioned is the sum of the periods out of OMT in the 3 patients, and we have rephrased the sentence according to Trafton’s advice.

Discretionary revisions:

We have removed the data and analysis of incident severity from the manuscript, both abstract and full text, and from Table 3 & 4.

The language: We have gone through the manuscript again. One of the professors at the Institute of General Practice and Community Medicine at the University of Oslo, who has studied and lived several years in the USA, has also copy edited the manuscript. We now hope that the language is acceptable.

We have according to Trafton’s advice replaced “extensive”/”no or not extensive” substance use with “problematic”/”abstinence or non-problematic” use. The categories are based upon the psychosocial consequences of substance use, and we find “problematic” a more precise category description.

We have also removed the discussion of the post-OMT period.

Other alterations:

Title page: The abstract and the author details have been changed since the previous version. The author details are no:
Ivar Skeie$^{1,2*}$, Mette Brekke$^3$, Morten Lindbæk$^3$, Helge Waal$^{1,2}$

$^1$ Aker University Hospital, Oslo, Norway

$^2$ University of Oslo, Institute of Psychiatry, Unit of Addiction Medicine, Oslo, Norway

$^3$ University of Oslo, Institute of General Practice and Community Medicine, Oslo, Norway

*Corresponding author

The present version of the abstract is replacing the former in the “manuscript details” tab.

The revised version of the manuscript is uploaded with the “upload files” tab.

If there are any problems with the manuscript, please notify us.

With best wishes,

Ivar Skeie
Corresponding author